

DRAFT Summary Points
University of Oregon Institutional Evaluation
December, 2016

ORS 352.061 requires the HECC to conduct annual evaluations of public universities in Oregon according to specific statutory criteria. Overall, the HECC's approach is to assess the university's contributions to statewide goals for higher education. We do not purport to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the university against its own mission. A summary of key findings follows:

1. **Accreditation:** UO is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and is fully on track with the 7-year NWCCU cycle for accreditation. During its last review in 2013, NWCCU recommended that UO intensify and focus its work on establishing intended learning outcomes for courses, programs, and degrees.
2. **Economic impact:** A 2015 report estimates the economic impact of the UO in 2013-14 as \$1.3 billion, with significant recent increases driven by construction and the growth of non-resident student enrollment.
3. **Student access and student success:** After a decade of significant enrollment increases driven by non-resident students, Fall 2016 saw modest enrollment declines from the previous fall across the board: for non-residents a decline of 1.5%; residents a decline of 2.5% (marking declines two years in a row), and 2% overall decline. At the same time, the number of underrepresented minority students enrolled at UO continues to increase, and is up more than 70% since 2010. UO also maintains an increasing trajectory in the number of degrees awarded. While graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients and underrepresented minority students lag the institutional average by 2-12 percentage points, UO is making year-over-year increases in the number of degrees awarded to underrepresented minority students.
4. **Affordability:** For 2016-17, UO's resident undergraduate tuition increased by 4.6%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 2.57% to \$25,815. For UO students who leave the university with debt, the average debt load is \$21,500.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** In addition to maintaining in good standing with its regional accreditor, UO retains its membership in the American Association of Universities (AAU). For FY 2016, it reports total research expenditures of \$106.6 million.
6. **Collaboration:** UO contributes to a host of collaborative activities with other post-secondary institutions. Significant new efforts included its support to Umpqua Community College following the October 1, 2015 shooting on UCC's campus, and to the Campus Safety Workgroup that was subsequently convened. About 21% of UO's undergraduates are transfer students, many of them from an Oregon community college.
7. **Shared administrative services:** UO participates in several of the services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE), and has opted out of the majority. UO believes that its decisions have resulted in increased effectiveness, lower costs, or both, without having a negative impact on the other public universities.

8. **Financial metrics:**

University of Oregon Ratios				
Ratio	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	83.10%	102.90%	76.00%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	68.30%	72.30%	51.80%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-0.90%	1.50%	-8.90%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	11.10%	9.50%	-1.30%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	5.80%	6.10%	5.40%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2016, the UO Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. In 2016, the Board exercised many of the powers reserved for it under law, including presidential oversight, budget adoption, tuition adoption, debt issuance, and program approval (for HECC consideration).